



Los Laga Bai celebrates their Silver Anniversary

For the island visitor, the annual Carnival Parade before Lent is a wonderful and colorful experience, but few can appreciate the time, effort and spirit that goes into the presentations from the various groups that they see that day. Possibly the longest standing group participating in Carnival “Los Laga Bai – The Group of Ambiente” celebrated twenty-five years of existence this past weekend with a grand party in the courtyard of the University of Aruba.

Co-founder of “Los Laga Bai” Emile de Cuba, who began the group with John Fingal and Jan Bodekker in 1983, reminisced about the many humorous events of those twenty-five years as he addressed the gathering. Even the very beginnings of “Los Laga Bai” group had comical moments, as it was born while the three were relaxing over a few drinks in the Manchebo Beach Bar. He introduced and expressed his gratitude to some of the members of “Los Laga Bai” that had been with the group since that first year, most of them simply dressed in tee shirts and shorts for that first time, as they had only three weeks to prepare for the parade.

Since then, the costumes have become more elaborate, annual participation has grown from the 125 that took part in the first parade to well over 400, and for the Golden Jubilee Parade in 2002, they introduced road pieces to their presentation for the first time.

In 2001, for their twentieth anniversary, they began printing a colorful and high quality booklet with ProGraphics about their history and the event to come, with a rendering of the costumes for that year and an explanation of their theme. This year, for their silver anniversary they have made an especially beautiful booklet, which makes a wonderful collector’s item for all the participants.

This year’s theme, “Cascabelnan di Fortuna” is about the Aruban Rattlesnake, which they claim “is a combination of the concepts of stability, culture, tradition and trustworthiness...It is meant to symbolize tradition and the growth the group has gone through... to become the well-organized group of today.” They also warn this year’s participants, “once you are bitten by the “Cascabelnan di Fortuna” you will be hooked for life!!!”

Over the years, “Los Laga Bai” has garnered several trophies for being the “Most Animated” group, which translates to having the most spirit and joy in their participation. They have a very loyal following, and their stated purpose, above all, is to have fun and enjoy taking part in the various parades. Congratulations to “Los Laga Bai” group on their Silver Jubilee, here is to many more years of exuberant enjoyment!